

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Summary**

**Lesson Objectives:** To understand the major events that occurred in the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Habakkuk, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

**Prayer:** Prayerfully read the opening prayer on page 221 in your study guide.

**Vocabulary Words:** The words listed below are sequenced in the order in which they appear in your *Big Picture of the Bible* study guide. Highlight or underline each of these words (or a form of the word) in your study guide. Write a short definition for each word. Use the glossary in the back of your study guide or your dictionary as needed. If the word has several different meanings, choose the one that best defines how the word is used in your study guide.

Irreversible	Abyss	Tolerate	Ruthless
Demolish	Desolate	Decree	Orchestrate

**Reading Assignment:** Read page 222 in your study guide.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Summary**

**Review Questions:** Read each question and then choose the “best” answer (a, b, c, or d) based on the assigned reading from your *Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament* study guide.

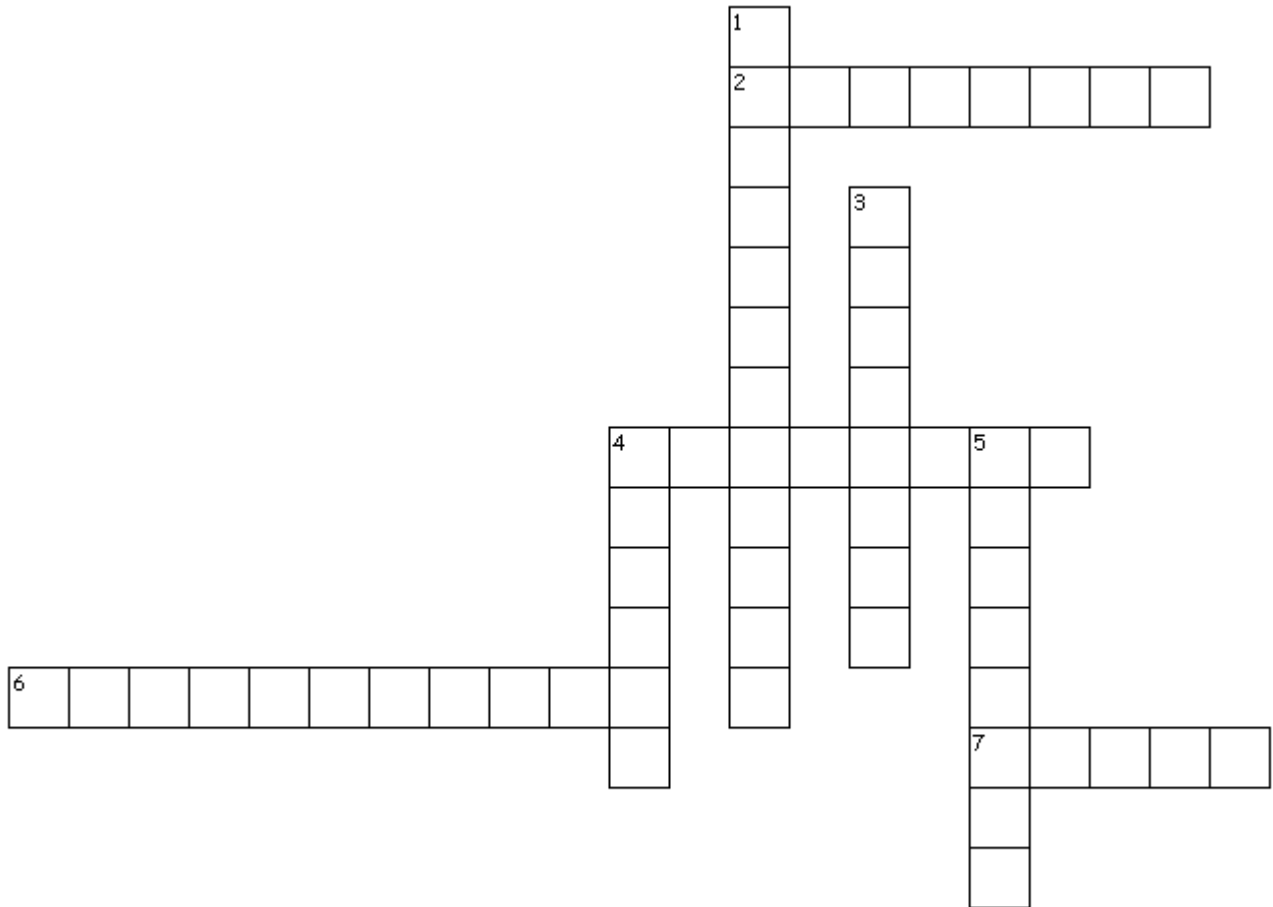
- 1) What nation captured and exiled the Northern Kingdom of Israel?
  - a) The Assyrians
  - b) The Babylonians
  - c) The Egyptians
  - d) The Persians
  
- 2) According to Scripture, why did God delay judgment against the Southern Kingdom of Judah?
  - a) God delayed judgment because He promised the land of Canaan to Abraham’s descendants.
  - b) God delayed judgment because the Israelites were God’s chosen people.
  - c) God delayed judgment because some of Judah’s good kings led the people back to the Lord.
  - d) God delayed judgment because the prophets interceded for the people in prayer.
  
- 3) What nation captured and exiled the Southern Kingdom of Judah?
  - a) The Assyrians
  - b) The Babylonians
  - c) The Egyptians
  - d) The Persians
  
- 4) How many times did King Nebuchadnezzar invade Judah and take away captives?
  - a) 2
  - b) 3
  - c) 4
  - d) 5
  
- 5) Judah’s kings rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar. What did they do?
  - a) They refused to worship King Nebuchadnezzar as god?
  - b) They refused to worship the King Nebuchadnezzar’s pagan gods.
  - c) They refused to make annual payments to King Nebuchadnezzar.
  - d) They refused to enter into commercial trades with King Nebuchadnezzar.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
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**Summary**

- 6) Which of the following is “not” a true statement about King Nebuchadnezzar?
  - a) King Nebuchadnezzar demolished the Temple in Jerusalem.
  - b) King Nebuchadnezzar took captives back to Babylon each time he invaded Judah.
  - c) King Nebuchadnezzar refused to accept annual payments from Judah.
  - d) King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city of Jerusalem.
  
- 7) Who conquered the Babylonians and allowed the Jewish exiles to return home?
  - a) The Assyrians
  - b) The Egyptians
  - c) The Arameans
  - d) The Persians
  
- 8) In what year did the Jews finish rebuilding the Temple?
  - a) 445 B.C.
  - b) 505 B.C.
  - c) 515 B.C.
  - d) 538 B.C.
  
- 9) In what year did the Jews finish restoring Jerusalem’s city wall?
  - a) 445 B.C.
  - b) 505 B.C.
  - c) 515 B.C.
  - d) 538 B.C.
  
- 10) Queen Esther saved her people from annihilation. What Jewish holiday commemorates this event?
  - a) Passover
  - b) Purim
  - c) Pentecost
  - d) Hanukkah

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Summary**

**Crossword Puzzle:** Use the vocabulary words for this lesson to fill in the answers to the crossword puzzle.



**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Summary**

**Vocabulary Crossword Puzzle Clues:**

**Across**

2. Without mercy, cruel
4. Deserted or uninhabited, lonely wasteland
6. To organize, plan, direct, or coordinate
7. A bottomless pit

**Down**

1. Incapable of being turned around or back, unchangeable
3. To destroy completely
4. A command or decision from one in authority
5. Put up with something or somebody unpleasant

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Summary**

**Writing Assignment:** Write a prayer using the ACTS pattern of prayer you learned about on page 8 of Module 1.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication**

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 1: Judah's Captivity & Exile**

**Lesson Objectives:** To be able to explain the Hebrew Names of God (Jehovah-Tsidkenu and Jehovah-Shammah) and understand the following:

- Wisdom and knowledge comes from God
- We are to trust God and not depend on our own understanding

**Memory Verse:** *“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.”* (Hosea 4:6 NIV)

**Prayer:** Prayerfully read the opening prayer on 221 in your study guide.

**Vocabulary Words:** The words listed below are sequenced in the order in which they appear in your *Big Picture of the Bible* study guide. Highlight or underline each of these words (or a form of the word) in your study guide. Write a short definition for each word. Use the glossary in the back of your study guide or your dictionary as needed. If the word has several different meanings, choose the one that best defines how the word is used in your study guide.

Pretend	Invade	Captivity	Surrender	Prominent
Tribute	Treason	Dungeon	Cistern	Passion
Endurance	Pollute	Devastate	Hostage	Synagogue

**Reading Assignment:** Read pages 226 through 230 in your study guide.

**Recommended Bible Reading:** Turn to page 230 of your study guide and find the recommended Bible reading. Read these scriptures in your Bible.



**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 1: Judah's Captivity & Exile**

**Review Questions:** Read each question and then choose the “best” answer (a, b, c, or d) based on the assigned reading from your *Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament* study guide.

- 1) Which prophet said the people of Judah only pretended to be sorry for their sins during good King Josiah's reign?
  - a) Jeremiah
  - b) Daniel
  - c) Ezekiel
  - d) Habakkuk
  
- 2) What did the people of Judah do soon after King Josiah's death?
  - a) They sincerely repented for their sins.
  - b) They pretended to be sorry for their sins.
  - c) They openly practiced idolatry.
  - d) They implemented religious reforms.
  
- 3) What does the Hebrew Name of God, Jehovah-Tsidkenu, mean?
  - a) The Lord is Our Righteousness.
  - b) The Lord Makes You Holy.
  - c) The Lord of Host.
  - d) The Lord is There.
  
- 4) King Josiah's son, Jehoahaz, succeeded him as king. What happened to Jehoahaz about three months after he began his reign as king?
  - a) He implemented religious reforms to lead the people back to God.
  - b) He was captured and taken to Babylon as a prisoner.
  - c) He was captured and taken to Egypt as a prisoner.
  - d) He was forced to make annual payments to the Babylonians.
  
- 5) Jehoiakim succeeded King Jehoahaz as king of Judah. Why did Jehoiakim collect a special tax?
  - a) Jehoiakim collected a special tax to convert the Temple into a place for pagan worship.
  - b) Jehoiakim collected a special tax to reinforce Jerusalem's wall.
  - c) Jehoiakim collected a special tax to meet Nebuchadnezzar's demand for payments
  - d) Jehoiakim collected a special tax to meet Egypt's demand for payments.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 1: Judah's Captivity & Exile**

- 6) King Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem on three separate occasions. In what year did King Nebuchadnezzar first invade Jerusalem?
- a) 722 B.C.
  - b) 605 B.C.
  - c) 597 B.C.
  - d) 586 B.C.
- 7) Which of the following is “not” true about King Nebuchadnezzar’s first invasion?
- a) King Nebuchadnezzar demanded annual payments.
  - b) King Nebuchadnezzar looted the Temple.
  - c) King Nebuchadnezzar took the prophet Daniel and other noblemen as captives.
  - d) King Nebuchadnezzar took the king of Judah to Babylon as a prisoner.
- 8) In which year did King Nebuchadnezzar return to Babylon for the second time?
- a) 722 B.C.
  - b) 605 B.C.
  - c) 597 B.C.
  - d) 586 B.C.
- 9) Why did King Nebuchadnezzar return to Babylon the second time?
- a) Nebuchadnezzar returned because Babylon needed more of Judah’s prominent citizens.
  - b) Nebuchadnezzar returned because Judah made three payments and then rebelled.
  - c) Nebuchadnezzar returned because he wanted to make peace with King Jehoiachin.
  - d) Nebuchadnezzar returned because Judah and Egypt had declared war against him.
- 10) Which of the following is “not” true about Nebuchadnezzar’s second invasion?
- a) King Nebuchadnezzar left Zedekiah, another one of Josiah’s sons, to rule as king of Judah.
  - b) King Nebuchadnezzar ordered his men to find Jeremiah and give him whatever he wanted.
  - c) King Nebuchadnezzar took the prophet Ezekiel and other prominent citizens as captives.
  - d) King Nebuchadnezzar took King Jehoiachin of Judah back to Babylon as a prisoner.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 1: Judah's Captivity & Exile**

- 11) According to Jeremiah's prophecy, how long would Judah's captivity last?
- 20 years
  - 50 years
  - 70 years
  - 100 years
- 12) Why was Jeremiah thrown into a dungeon?
- Jeremiah was charged with making false prophecies.
  - Jeremiah was falsely charged with idol worship.
  - Jeremiah was falsely charged with treason.
  - Jeremiah was charged with being disrespectful to the king of Judah.
- 13) King Zedekiah met secretly with the prophet Jeremiah on several occasions. Which of the following is "not" something Jeremiah told King Zedekiah during these secret meetings?
- Jeremiah told the king he would live and Jerusalem would be spared if he surrendered.
  - Jeremiah told the king he should not put his faith in the Egyptians.
  - Jeremiah told the king that Judah's captivity would last for a period of seventy years.
  - Jeremiah told the king that the Babylonians would return and burn Jerusalem to the ground.
- 14) Which of the following was "not" one of Jeremiah's hardships?
- Jeremiah was imprisoned.
  - Jeremiah was lowered into a cistern.
  - Jeremiah was taken to Babylon as a captive.
  - Jeremiah was held hostage by an assassin.
- 15) What did King Zedekiah say when Jeremiah advised him to turn himself over to King Nebuchadnezzar?
- King Zedekiah said he was afraid.
  - King Zedekiah said he was trusting God for help.
  - King Zedekiah said the Egyptians would rescue him.
  - King Zedekiah said he was planning an escape.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
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**Section 1: Judah's Captivity & Exile**

- 16) Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem for three long years. In what year did Nebuchadnezzar's army finally break through Jerusalem's wall?
- a) 722 B.C.
  - b) 605 B.C.
  - c) 597 B.C.
  - d) 586 B.C.
- 17) Which of the following is "not" one of the punishments Nebuchadnezzar inflicted on King Zedekiah?
- a) Nebuchadnezzar made Zedekiah watch while his sons were killed.
  - b) Nebuchadnezzar gouged out Zedekiah's eyes.
  - c) Nebuchadnezzar put Zedekiah to death on the altar.
  - d) Nebuchadnezzar took Zedekiah in chains to Babylon.
- 18) Which prophet is called the weeping prophet because of the many tears he shed after witnessing the total destruction of Jerusalem?
- a) Jeremiah
  - b) Daniel
  - c) Ezekiel
  - d) Habakkuk
- 19) Which prophet was greatly distressed by Judah's sins and asked God how long these injustices would go unpunished?
- a) Jeremiah
  - b) Daniel
  - c) Ezekiel
  - d) Habakkuk
- 20) Which of the following is "not" something the Babylonians did after breaking through the city walls of Jerusalem?
- a) The Babylonians marched through the city of Jerusalem destroying everything in their path and killing people.
  - b) The Babylonians appointed one of Josiah's sons to govern the few poor people who were left behind in Judah.
  - c) The Babylonians found Jeremiah and asked him if he wanted to stay or go to Babylon.
  - d) The Babylonians burned down the Temple, the palace, the important buildings and demolished the city's wall.

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**Section 1: Judah's Captivity & Exile**

- 21) Who was appointed to govern the few poor people left in Judah?
- a) Josiah's son
  - b) Johanan
  - c) Gedaliah
  - d) Jeremiah
- 22) What happened shortly after the governor was appointed?
- a) The governor and few poor people fled to Bethlehem.
  - b) The governor and few poor people fled to Egypt.
  - c) The governor was assassinated by one of his own men.
  - d) The governor was assassinated by a member of the royal family.
- 23) What message did God give the prophet Jeremiah for the poor people left behind in Judah?
- a) God told Jeremiah that the poor people should make him their governor.
  - b) God told Jeremiah that the poor people should stay in Judah.
  - c) God told Jeremiah that the poor people should flee to Egypt.
  - d) God told Jeremiah that the poor people should surrender to Nebuchadnezzar.
- 24) What did the poor people do when Jeremiah delivered God's message to them?
- a) They listened to the Lord and said, "Thy will be done."
  - b) They said they were afraid to surrender to Nebuchadnezzar.
  - c) They panicked and didn't believe Jeremiah.
  - d) They decided to stay in Judah instead of fleeing to Egypt.
- 25) What does the Hebrew Name of God, Jehovah-Shammah, mean?
- a) The Lord is Our Righteousness.
  - b) The Lord Makes You Holy.
  - c) The Lord of Hosts.
  - d) The Lord is There.

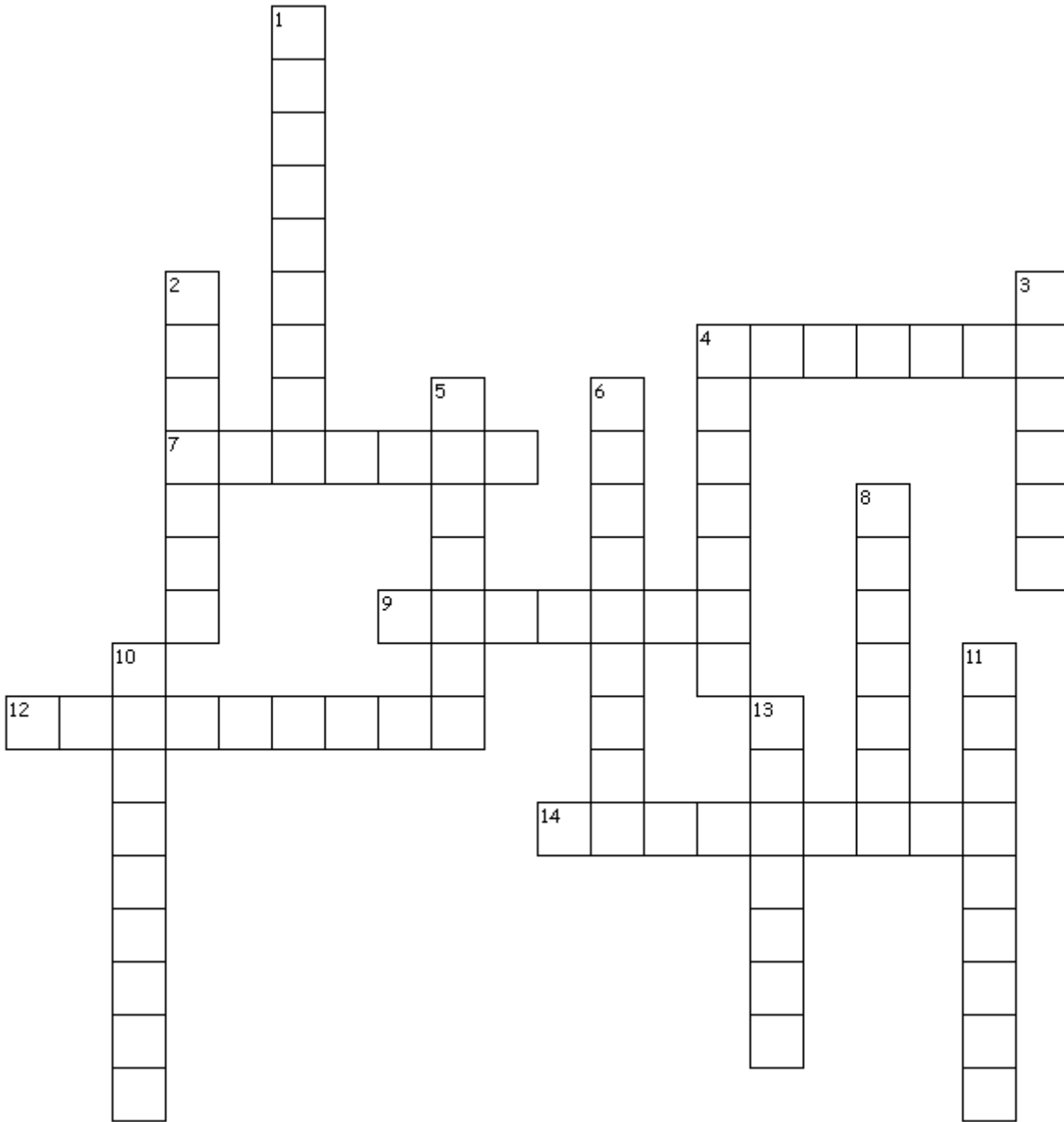
**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 1: Judah’s Captivity & Exile**

**Inductive Study:** Use the table on 223 of *Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament* and your assigned reading to complete the table below. Fill in the answer to each question in the space provided below.

Section 1: Judah’s Captivity & Exile	Who, Where, When, What, Why, and How
Who were the people you read about in this section?	
Where were the people in this section living?	
When did the events in this section take place? (See the Approx. Timeline on 223.)	
What specific events took place in this section? (List a few major events that happened in this section.)	
Why are these events in the Bible? In your opinion, why did God want you to know about these events?	
How would you describe God’s character in this section? What was God doing?	

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
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**Section 1: Judah's Captivity & Exile**

**Crossword Puzzle:** Use the vocabulary words for this lesson to fill in the answers to the crossword puzzle.



**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 1: Judah's Captivity & Exile**

**Vocabulary Crossword Puzzle Clues:**

**Across**

4. A strong feeling or emotion, To suffer pain and sorrow
7. Act of betraying or trying to overthrow one's own government
9. A close dark prison in a castle, usually underground'
12. A place of worship for a Jewish congregation
14. Having a quality that stands out or attracts attention

**Down**

1. To overwhelm or to cause extensive destruction
2. A reservoir or tank for holding water or other liquids as a well
3. To march aggressively into another's territory with hostile intent
4. Make believe with the intent to deceive, state insincerely
5. To make impure or unclean
6. To yield or give up one's self to another's power
8. A prisoner held by one party to insure specified terms
10. The power to withstand hardship or stress
11. The state of being imprisoned or enslaved
13. Money paid to another nation as the price for peace and protection



**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
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**Section 1: Judah’s Captivity & Exile**

**Lesson Application 1:** In this lesson, King Zedekiah and the others sought God’s will from the prophet Jeremiah, but did not listen when Jeremiah delivered God’s message.

1.) Why didn’t King Zedekiah listen to Jeremiah and surrender to Nebuchadnezzar?

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2.) Why didn’t the poor people listen to Jeremiah and stay in Judah instead of fleeing to Egypt?

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3.) Proverbs 3:5 tells us to *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.”* Why is it difficult for people to trust God instead of depending on their own understanding?

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 1: Judah’s Captivity & Exile**

**Writing Assignment 1:** The Hebrew Name of God, *Jehovah-Tsidkenu*, is defined in the note on page 226 of your study guide. Read it and then write a poem or a short essay to describe God’s character as *Jehovah-Tsidkenu* and what this name means to you personally. The Hebrew names of God are also defined in the table on page 274.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**God is Jehovah-Tsidkenu**

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 1: Judah’s Captivity & Exile**

**Writing Assignment 2:** The Hebrew Name of God, *Jehovah-Shammah*, is defined in the note on page 230 of your study guide. Read it and then write a poem or a short essay to describe God’s character as *Jehovah- Shammah* and what this name means to you personally. The Hebrew names of God are also defined in the table on page 274.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**God is Jehovah-Shammah**

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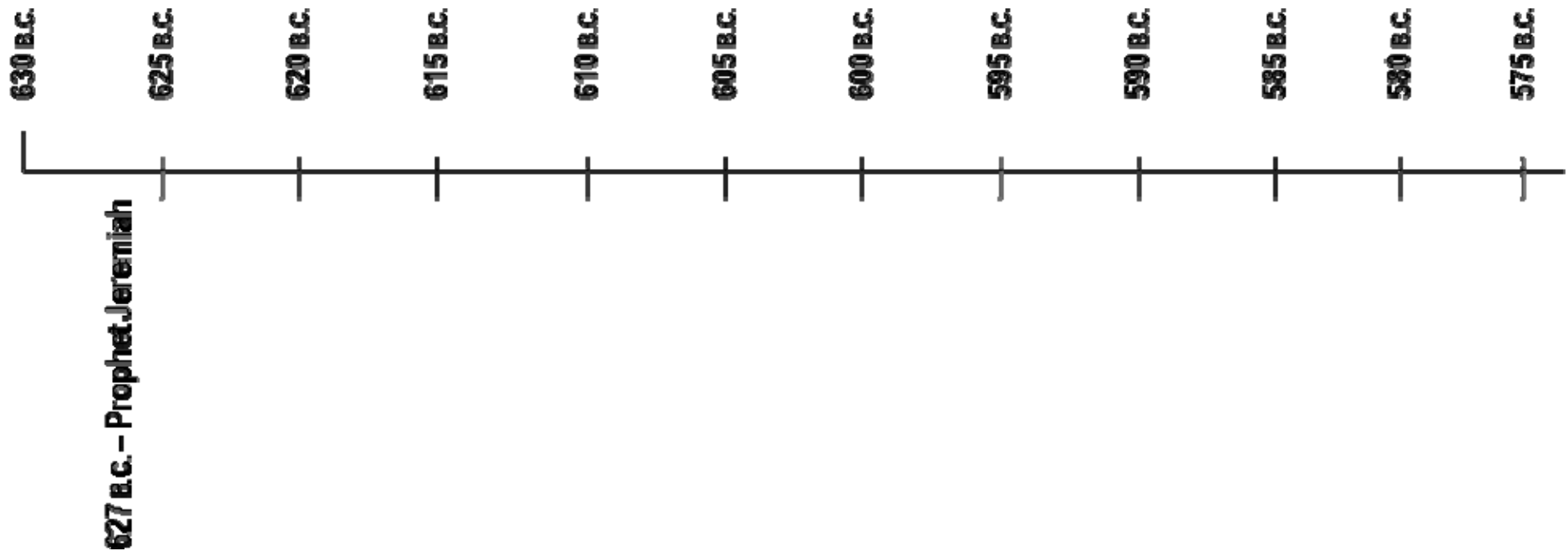
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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 1: Judah’s Captivity & Exile**

**Historical Timeline:** Using the table on page 226 of your study guide, mark and label the timeline below to show the beginning of each king’s reign and the beginning of each prophet’s ministry. For each king, include the date the king’s reign began and the king’s name. For each prophet listed in this table, include the prophet’s name and the date his ministry began. The first prophet listed in the table has been entered on the timeline as an example.

**Timeline of Judah’s Kings and Prophets**





[www.bigpictureofthebible.com](http://www.bigpictureofthebible.com)

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 1: Judah’s Captivity & Exile**

**Writing Assignment 3:** The memory verse for this lesson is printed below. Read it and then write your thoughts about how this verse applied to the people living in the kingdom of Judah. How does it apply to us today?

*“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.” (Hosea 4:6 NIV)*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 2: The Fall of Babylon**

**Lesson Objectives:** To be able to understand the following:

- We are to reverence the Lord God
- God protects those who trust in Him

**Memory Verse:** *“The LORD says, ‘I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name.’”* (Psalm 91:14 NLT)

**Prayer:** Prayerfully read the opening prayer on 221 in your study guide.

**Vocabulary Words:** The words listed below are sequenced in the order in which they appear in your *Big Picture of the Bible* study guide. Highlight or underline each of these words (or a form of the word) in your study guide. Write a short definition for each word. Use the glossary in the back of your study guide or your dictionary as needed. If the word has several different meanings, choose the one that best defines how the word is used in your study guide.

Ascend	Goblet	Summon	Examine
Commotion	Administrator	Reputation	Discredit
Devise	Scheme	Condemn	Regret
	Rescind	Connive	

**Reading Assignment:** Read pages 231 through 233 in your study guide.

**Recommended Bible Reading:** Turn to page 233 of your study guide and find the recommended Bible reading. Read these scriptures in your Bible.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 2: The Fall of Babylon**

**Review Questions:** Read each question and then choose the “best” answer (a, b, c, or d) based on the assigned reading from your *Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament* study guide.

- 1) Which of Judah’s kings was released from prison and treated well by Nebuchadnezzar’s son?
  - a) King Zedekiah
  - b) King Jehoiachin
  - c) King Jehoiakim
  - d) King Jehoahaz
  
- 2) Which prophet proclaimed that a Good Shepherd would come and lead God’s people?
  - a) Jeremiah
  - b) Habakkuk
  - c) Daniel
  - d) Ezekiel
  
- 3) Which prophet became an advisor in the palace of the king of Babylon?
  - a) Jeremiah
  - b) Habakkuk
  - c) Daniel
  - d) Ezekiel
  
- 4) Which of the following is “not” true about the prophet Daniel?
  - a) Daniel was gifted with the power to interpret dreams.
  - b) Daniel was carried away to Babylon during the second exile.
  - c) Daniel prophesied about the Messiah’s coming.
  - d) Daniel remained fully devoted to the One True God.
  
- 5) Which of the following is “not” true about the prophet Ezekiel?
  - a) Ezekiel saw visions of God’s presence leaving the Temple.
  - b) Ezekiel was carried away to Babylon during the second exile.
  - c) Ezekiel prophesied about Jerusalem’s certain destruction.
  - d) Ezekiel was in Babylon when the prophet Daniel arrived.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
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**Section 2: The Fall of Babylon**

- 6) King Belshazzar held a royal banquet for his noblemen in this lesson. About how many years had passed since the exile?
- a) 5
  - b) 24
  - c) 66
  - d) 70
- 7) During King Belshazzar's banquet, he and his guests drank wine from sacred goblets? Why were the goblets sacred?
- a) The goblets belonged to Nebuchadnezzar's sacred treasury.
  - b) The goblets belonged to the king of Babylon.
  - c) The goblets were taken from one of the pagan temples in Babylon.
  - d) The goblets were taken from the Temple in Jerusalem.
- 8) Who were King Belshazzar and his guests toasting while drinking wine from the sacred goblets?
- a) They toasted King Nebuchadnezzar.
  - b) They toasted the king of Babylon.
  - c) They toasted their idol gods.
  - d) They toasted the One True God.
- 9) What happened while King Belshazzar and his guests were drinking and making toasts?
- a) Daniel wrote a message on the palace wall.
  - b) A message was burned into the palace wall.
  - c) A hand wrote a message on the palace wall.
  - d) King Belshazzar wrote a message on the palace wall.
- 10) Who told King Belshazzar that Daniel might be able to interpret the message on the wall?
- a) The king's wise men.
  - b) The Queen Mother.
  - c) A Babylonian medium.
  - d) King Nebuchadnezzar's son.



**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 2: The Fall of Babylon**

- 11) Which of the following was “not” part of Daniel’s interpretation of the handwriting on the wall?
- a) Daniel told the king that his days were numbered.
  - b) Daniel said the king failed to measure up.
  - c) Daniel said the king weighed too much.
  - d) Daniel said the kingdom would be divided.
- 12) Who killed King Belshazzar after Daniel interpreted the handwriting on the wall?
- a) Daniel
  - b) The Queen Mother
  - c) The king’s wise men
  - d) Darius the Mede
- 13) Who conquered the Babylonians?
- a) Daniel
  - b) The Medes
  - c) The Persians
  - d) The Medes and Persians
- 14) In which year did the Babylonian Empire fall?
- a) 536 B.C.
  - b) 538 B.C.
  - c) 539 B.C.
  - d) 596 B.C.
- 15) Why were King Darius’ palace administrators upset with Daniel?
- a) They were upset because Daniel interpreted the handwriting on the wall.
  - b) They were upset because Daniel refused to worship their pagan gods.
  - c) They were upset because Darius planned to promote Daniel.
  - d) They were upset because Daniel had been blessed by God.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 2: The Fall of Babylon**

- 16) The administrators convinced King Darius to issue a decree. What did this decree state?
- The decree stated that those who prayed to the king would be thrown in the lions' den.
  - The decree stated that those who prayed to any god other than the king would be thrown in the lions' den.
  - The decree stated that those who prayed to any god other than Daniel's God would be thrown into the lions' den.
  - The decree stated that those who refused to pray to King Darius' pagan god would be thrown into the lions' den.
- 17) The administrators told King Darius that Daniel should be condemned to death. What charges did they bring against Daniel?
- They charged Daniel with treason.
  - They charged Daniel with violating the king's decree.
  - They charged Daniel with violating their pagan rituals.
  - They charged Daniel with blasphemy.
- 18) Why did King Darius reluctantly sentence Daniel to death?
- King Darius sentenced Daniel to death because the administrators convinced him that Daniel could not be trusted.
  - King Darius sentenced Daniel to death because he knew that God would protect Daniel.
  - King Darius sentenced Daniel to death because he wanted to stop the Jews from worshiping the One True God.
  - King Darius sentenced Daniel to death because a king's decree could not be rescinded.
- 19) According to Daniel, what kept the lions from harming him?
- God sent an angel to prevent the lions from seeing Daniel.
  - God sent an angel to put the lions to sleep.
  - God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths.
  - God sent an angel to prevent the lions from getting hungry.
- 20) King Darius issued a decree after Daniel's release. What did this decree state?
- King Darius decreed that everyone in Babylon should worship Daniel.
  - King Darius decreed that the administrators should be thrown into the lions' den.
  - King Darius decreed that everyone in Babylon should reverence Daniel's God.
  - King Darius decreed that everyone in Babylon should worship the king.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 2: The Fall of Babylon**

**Inductive Study:** Use the table on 223 of *Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament* and your assigned reading to complete the table below. Fill in the answer to each question in the space provided below.

Section 2: The Fall of Babylon	Who, Where, When, What, Why, and How
Who were the people you read about in this section?	
Where was each of the people in this section living?	
When did the events in this section take place? (See the Approx. Timeline on 223.)	
What specific events took place in this section? (List a few major events that happened in this section.)	
Why are these events in the Bible? In your opinion, why did God want you to know about these events?	
How would you describe God's character in this section? What was God doing?	

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 2: The Fall of Babylon**

**Vocabulary Mix and Match:** Match each vocabulary word with its definition. Enter the alphabet associated with the correct definition in the space provided.

- |                  |       |   |
|------------------|-------|---|
| 1) Ascend        | _____ | A) The act of making a noisy disturbance                          |
| 2) Goblet        | _____ | B) To reverse or cancel officially                                |
| 3) Summon        | _____ | C) The character attributed to a person by public opinion         |
| 4) Examine       | _____ | D) A drinking glass with a base and stem                          |
| 5) Commotion     | _____ | E) To feel sorry for some past action, to express remorse         |
| 6) Administrator | _____ | F) To arrange or come up with by systematic planning              |
| 7) Reputation    | _____ | G) To ask to come or to call in an official manner                |
| 8) Discredit     | _____ | H) An elaborate and systematic plan of action                     |
| 9) Devise        | _____ | I) To express strong disapproval or declare to be guilty or unfit |
| 10) Scheme       | _____ | J) To go up or move up into a better position in life             |
| 11) Condemn      | _____ | K) To encourage or assent to criminal or illegal action           |
| 12) Regret       | _____ | L) To cause to be distrusted or disbelieved                       |
| 13) Rescind      | _____ | M) To look over carefully or to inspect                           |
| 14) Connive      | _____ | N) One who manages, directs, and executes affairs                 |

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 2: The Fall of Babylon**

**Writing Assignment 1:** We are to show reverent fear of the Lord. This does not mean we are to be afraid of God. Look up the word “reverence” in your dictionary and then answer the following:

1.) What is “reverent fear” of the Lord?

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2.) Give an example from scripture or something you have done that showed reverent fear of the Lord.

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3.) Give an example from scripture that shows a lack of reverent fear of the Lord.

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 2: The Fall of Babylon**

**Lesson Application 1:** For each of the scriptures listed below, write a sentence that clearly states how God rewards those who reverently fear Him.

- 1) *“The LORD is a friend to those who fear him”* (Psalm 24:14 NLT)
- 2) *“For the angel of the LORD is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him.”* (Psalm 34:7 NLT)
- 3) *“But the love of the LORD remains forever with those who fear him.”* (Psalm 103:17 NLT)
- 4) *“True humility and fear of the LORD lead to riches, honor, and long life.”* (Proverbs 22:4 NLT)
- 5) *“Fear of the LORD leads to life, bringing security and protection from harm.”* (Proverbs 19:23 NLT)
- 6) *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom . . .”* (Proverbs 9:10 NLT)
- 7) *“The LORD is like a father. . . tender and compassionate to those who fear him* (Psalm 103:13 NLT)
- 8) *“He will bless those who fear the LORD, both great and small”* (Psalm 115:13 NLT)

- 1.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 2: The Fall of Babylon**

**Lesson Application 2:** For each scripture listed below, write a sentence describing what happens to those who do not fear God.

- 1) *“The fear of the LORD adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.”* (Proverbs 10:27 NLT)
- 2) *“Sin whispers to the wicked, deep within their hearts. They have no fear of God to restrain them”* (Psalms 36:1 NLT)
- 3) *The wicked will not prosper, for they do not fear God. Their days will never grow long like the evening shadows* (Ecclesiastes 8:13 NLT)
- 4) *“Destruction and misery always follow them. They don’t know where to find peace. They have no fear of God at all.”* (Romans 3:15 – 18 NLT)

1.) \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) \_\_\_\_\_

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3.) \_\_\_\_\_

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4.) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 2: The Fall of Babylon**

**Lesson Application 3:** In this lesson, King Belshazzar and his guests lacked reverent fear of the Lord. On the other hand, Daniel revered the Lord and trusted in God for protection.

1.) What did King Belshazzar do that lacked reverent fear of the Lord?

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2.) How did God show His displeasure with King Belshazzar?

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3.) What did Daniel do that showed his reverence for the Lord? How did God reward Daniel's faith?

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 2: The Fall of Babylon**

**Writing Assignment 2:** The memory verse for this lesson is printed below. Read it and then write your thoughts about what this verse means to you.

*“The LORD says, “I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name.”*

(Psalm 91:14 NLT)

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 3: The Decree to Return**

**Lesson Objectives:** To understand the following:

- God is faithful in keeping His promises
- God is merciful and compassionate

**Memory Verse:** *“Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”* (Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV)

**Prayer:** Prayerfully read the opening prayer on 221 in your study guide.

**Vocabulary Words:** The words listed below are sequenced in the order in which they appear in your *Big Picture of the Bible* study guide. Highlight or underline each of these words (or a form of the word) in your study guide. Write a short definition for each word. Use the glossary in the back of your study guide or your dictionary as needed. If the word has several different meanings, choose the one that best defines how the word is used in your study guide.

Fulfill	Hostile	Sabotage	Predecessor
Archives	Interfere	Comply	Motivate

**Reading Assignment:** Read pages 234 – 236 in your study guide.

**Recommended Bible Reading:** Turn to page 236 of your study guide and find the recommended Bible reading. Read these scriptures in your Bible.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 3: The Decree to Return**

**Review Questions:** Read each question and then choose the “best” answer (a, b, c, or d) based on the assigned reading from your *Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament* study guide.

- 1) Who ruled the Jewish exiles after the Babylonian Empire fell?
  - a) The Persians
  - b) The Egyptians
  - c) The Assyrians
  - d) The Greeks
  
- 2) King Cyrus issued a decree during the first year of his reign. What did this decree state?
  - a) King Cyrus decreed that everyone should worship the One True God.
  - b) King Cyrus decreed that those praying to the One True God would be killed.
  - c) King Cyrus decreed that the Jewish exiles could build a Temple in Babylon.
  - d) King Cyrus decreed that the Jewish exiles could return home and rebuild the Temple.
  
- 3) Who prophesied that the Jewish exiles would be held captive for a period of seventy years?
  - a) Isaiah
  - b) Daniel
  - c) Ezekiel
  - d) Jeremiah
  
- 4) Who prophesied that a man named Cyrus would call for the rebuilding of the Temple?
  - a) Isaiah
  - b) Daniel
  - c) Ezekiel
  - d) Jeremiah
  
- 5) What did King Cyrus order his officials to give to the returning exiles before they left?
  - a) King Cyrus ordered officials to give the returning exiles a copy of the decree.
  - b) King Cyrus ordered officials to give the returning exiles supplies and offerings their neighbors and friends donated for their journey.
  - c) King Cyrus ordered officials to give the returning exiles thousands of sacred items which were taken from the Temple in Jerusalem.
  - d) King Cyrus ordered officials to give the returning exiles the Ark of the Covenant which was taken from the Temple in Jerusalem.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 3: The Decree to Return**

- 6) About how many Jews made the first trip back to Judah?
  - a) 10,000
  - b) 25,000
  - c) 50,000
  - d) 60,000
  
- 7) Who led the first group of Jewish exiles back to Judah?
  - a) Zerubbabel
  - b) Ezra
  - c) Cyrus
  - d) Daniel
  
- 8) What part of the Temple did the returned exiles rebuild first?
  - a) The returned exiles laid the foundation first.
  - b) The returned exiles built the bronze basin first.
  - c) The returned exiles built the Most Holy Place first.
  - d) The returned exiles built the altar first.
  
- 9) What part of the Temple did the returned exiles rebuild second?
  - a) The returned exiles laid the foundation second.
  - b) The returned exiles built the bronze basin second.
  - c) The returned exiles built the Most Holy Place second.
  - d) The returned exiles built the altar second.
  
- 10) What did the older exiles do when they saw the newly laid foundation?
  - a) They were overjoyed and began praising God.
  - b) They were overcome with sadness and cried.
  - c) They talked about the splendor of the original Temple.
  - d) They recited the Ten Commandments for the younger returned exiles.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 3: The Decree to Return**

- 11) Which of the following is “not” true about the non-Jewish residents who were living in Jerusalem?
- a) The non-Jewish residents were hostile when the Jewish exiles returned.
  - b) The non-Jewish residents asked if they could help rebuild the Temple.
  - c) The non-Jewish residents plotted against the exiles and sabotaged the work effort.
  - d) The non-Jewish residents told Zerubbabel to send for a copy of King Cyrus’ decree.
- 12) Which prophets encouraged the returned exiles to restart their efforts to rebuild the Temple?
- a) Ezra and Nehemiah
  - b) Daniel and Haggai
  - c) Haggai and Zechariah
  - d) Zechariah and Daniel
- 13) Who ordered the local non-Jews to stop interfering with the efforts to rebuild the Temple?
- a) Zerubbabel
  - b) King Cyrus
  - c) King Darius
  - d) Haggai
- 14) The Temple was rebuilt about how many years after the first exiles return?
- a) 2
  - b) 10
  - c) 15
  - d) 20
- 15) Which of the following statements is “not” true about Zerubbabel?
- a) Zerubbabel was King Jehoiachin’s grandson.
  - b) Zerubbabel was a descendant of King David.
  - c) Zerubbabel was a governor of Judah.
  - d) Zerubbabel was a prophet.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 3: The Decree to Return**

**Inductive Study:** Use the table on 223 of *Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament* and your assigned reading to complete the table below. Fill in the answer to each question in the space provided below.

Section 3: The Decree to Return	Who, Where, When, What, Why, and How
Who were the people you read about in this section?	
Where was each of the people in this section living?	
When did the events in this section take place? (See the Approx. Timeline on 223.)	
What specific events took place in this section? (List a few major events that happened in this section.)	
Why are these events in the Bible? In your opinion, why did God want you to know about these events?	
How would you describe God's character in this section? What was God doing?	

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 3: The Decree to Return**

**Vocabulary Mix and Match:** Match each vocabulary word with its definition. Enter the alphabet associated with the correct definition in the space provided.

- |                |       |   |
|----------------|-------|---|
| 1) Fulfill     | _____ | A) A deliberate act of destruction or disruption        |
| 2) Hostile     | _____ | B) A collection of records                              |
| 4) Sabotage    | _____ | C) One who comes before another, a forerunner           |
| 5) Predecessor | _____ | D) Give an incentive for action                         |
| 6) Archives    | _____ | E) Act in accordance to with rules, commands, or wishes |
| 7) Interfere   | _____ | F) Warlike, showing ill-will, behaving as an enemy      |
| 8) Comply      | _____ | G) To accomplish or put into effect                     |
| 9) Motivate    | _____ | H) Come between to hinder or to create an obstacle      |

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 3: The Decree to Return**

**Lesson Application 1:** God is faithful in keeping His promises. In this lesson, several prophecies were fulfilled.

1.) What prophecy did God give Jeremiah that was fulfilled in this lesson? (See Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10)

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2.) What prophecy did God give Isaiah that was fulfilled in this lesson? (See Isaiah 44:28)

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3.) What prophecy did God give Zechariah that was fulfilled in this lesson? (See Zechariah 1:16)

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 3: The Decree to Return**

**Lesson Application 2:** Haggai and Zechariah made several prophecies that were fulfilled by Jesus Christ. Read the scriptures listed in parenthesis and then write the prophecy that was fulfilled by Jesus Christ in the spaces provided. Note: These prophecies can also be found on page 236 of your study guide in the boxes about the prophets Haggai and Zechariah.

1.) (Haggai 2:20–23; Matthew 1:12; Luke 3:27) What prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus Christ?

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2.) (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:1–7) What prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus Christ?

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3.) (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:14–15) What prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus Christ?

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 3: The Decree to Return**

4.) (Zechariah 11:13; Matthew 27:5–7) What prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus Christ?

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5.) (Zechariah 13:7; Matthew 26:31; 55–56) What prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus Christ?

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6.) (Zechariah 12:10; John 19:32–34) What prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus Christ?

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 3: The Decree to Return**

**Writing Assignment:** The memory verse for this lesson is printed below. Read it and then write your thoughts about how this verse applied to the Jewish exiles in this lesson and how it applies to us today.

*“Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”*

(Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV)

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

**Lesson Objectives:** To understand and be able to explain:

- God is in control and orchestrates situations for His glory
- God has a purpose for our lives and uses us to accomplish His will

**Memory Verse:** *“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”* (Ephesians 2:10 NLT)

**Prayer:** Prayerfully read the opening prayer on 221 in your study guide.

**Vocabulary Words:** The words listed below are sequenced in the order in which they appear in your *Big Picture of the Bible* study guide. Highlight or underline each of these words (or a form of the word) in your study guide. Write a short definition for each word. Use the glossary in the back of your study guide or your dictionary as needed. If the word has several different meanings, choose the one that best defines how the word is used in your study guide.

Exclusive	Nationality	Verify	Annihilate
Gallows	Loyalty	Revoke	Intercede

**Reading Assignment:** Read pages 237 through 240 in your study guide.

**Recommended Bible Reading** Turn to page 240 of your study guide and find the recommended Bible reading. Read these scriptures in your Bible.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

**Review Questions:** Read each question and then choose the “best” answer (a, b, c, or d) based on the assigned reading from your *Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament* study guide.

- 1) In what city does the story of Esther take place?
  - a) Jerusalem
  - b) Babylonia
  - c) Samaria
  - d) Susa
  
- 2) Which empire ruled over the Jews when the story of Esther took place?
  - a) The Assyrian Empire
  - b) The Babylonian Empire
  - c) The Persian Empire
  - d) The Roman Empire
  
- 3) Who was king of Persia when the story of Esther took place?
  - a) Xerxes
  - b) Cyrus
  - c) Cambyses
  - d) Darius
  
- 4) Why did the king want his attendants to bring Queen Vashti to the banquet hall?
  - a) The king wanted to make a toast in her honor.
  - b) The king wanted her to taste his fine wines.
  - c) The king wanted to present her with a gift.
  - d) The king wanted to show off her beauty.
  
- 5) Why did the king become angry with Queen Vashti?
  - a) Queen Vashti criticized the king and his guests.
  - b) Queen Vashti refused to drink the king’s wine.
  - c) Queen Vashti refused to come to the banquet hall.
  - d) Queen Vashti returned the king’s gift.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

- 6) What happened to Queen Vashti?
  - a) Queen Vashti was put to death.
  - b) Queen Vashti was banished.
  - c) Queen Vashti was sent back to her room.
  - d) Queen Vashti was imprisoned.
  
- 7) Who suggested to the king that he should conduct a search for beautiful women?
  - a) Mordecai
  - b) Haman
  - c) The nobles and officials of Persia
  - d) The king's personal attendants
  
- 8) How was Mordecai related to Esther?
  - a) Mordecai was Esther's grandfather.
  - b) Mordecai was Esther's father.
  - c) Mordecai was Esther's cousin.
  - d) Mordecai was Esther's brother.
  
- 9) What happened to Esther's parents?
  - a) They died.
  - b) They were imprisoned.
  - c) They were banished.
  - d) They returned to Jerusalem.
  
- 10) How long did Esther and the other beautiful women receive beauty treatments and special training before they were selected to spend a night with the king?
  - a) About three months
  - b) About six months
  - c) About one year
  - d) About two years

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

- 11) What didn't Mordecai want Esther to reveal to anyone?
- a) Mordecai did not want Esther to reveal that they were related.
  - b) Mordecai did not want Esther to reveal that she was Jewish.
  - c) Mordecai did not want Esther to reveal that he had adopted her.
  - d) Mordecai did not want Esther to reveal that she was poor.
- 12) The king made Esther his queen. Which of the following was Esther's royal title?
- a) Queen of Susa
  - b) Queen of Persia
  - c) Queen of the Jews
  - d) Queen Mother
- 13) Who overheard assassins plotting to kill the king?
- a) Esther
  - b) Mordecai
  - c) Haman
  - d) Two place guards
- 14) Who told the king about the assassins who were plotting to kill him?
- a) Esther
  - b) Mordecai
  - c) Haman
  - d) Two place guards
- 15) Why was Haman angry with Mordecai?
- a) Because Mordecai would not bow down before the king.
  - b) Because Mordecai would not bow down before him.
  - c) Because he thought Mordecai was plotting to kill the king.
  - d) Because he thought Mordecai was plotting to kill him.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

- 16) Haman used the king's authority to issue a decree. What did the decree state?
- The decree stated that all Jews had to return to Jerusalem on a certain date.
  - The decree stated that all Jews must bow down before Haman.
  - The decree stated that all Jews must be killed on a certain date.
  - The decree stated that all Jews must leave Persia by a certain date.
- 17) Why was Esther initially reluctant to go to the king for help?
- Esther knew that she could be put to death.
  - Esther was no longer the Queen of Persia.
  - Esther thought Mordecai was overreacting to the situation.
  - Esther did not want to disturb the king with her problems.
- 18) The king wanted to honor the person who saved his life. Who was this person?
- Esther
  - Mordecai
  - Haman
  - His second in command
- 19) When did Esther tell the king about Haman's decree?
- She told the king about Haman during her first banquet.
  - She told the king about Haman during her second banquet.
  - She told the king about Haman during her third banquet.
  - She told the king about Haman during her fourth banquet.
- 20) What did the king do to Haman when Esther told him about the decree?
- The king imprisoned Haman.
  - The king banished Haman.
  - The king had Haman put to death.
  - The king promoted Haman.



**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

- 21) Why didn't the king rescind the decree issued by Haman?
- a) The king agreed with the decree.
  - b) The king did not want to offend his subjects.
  - c) The king knew the decree would not be put into effect.
  - d) The king could not revoke a royal decree.
- 22) The king gave Esther and Mordecai permission to issue a decree. What did their decree state?
- a) Esther and Mordecai issued a decree to prevent non-Jews from killing Jews.
  - b) Esther and Mordecai issued a decree to prevent non-Jews from rising up against Jews.
  - c) Esther and Mordecai issued a decree to allow the Jews to return to their homeland.
  - d) Esther and Mordecai issued a decree to allow the Jews to defend themselves.
- 23) What is the meaning of the word "purim?"
- a) The word "purim" means "purity."
  - b) The word "purim" means "lots."
  - c) The word "purim" means "God saves."
  - d) The word "purim" means "God is pure."
- 24) Which of the following is "not" true about Mordecai?
- a) Mordecai was the man who refused to bow down before Haman.
  - b) Mordecai suggested that the Jews celebrate Purim as an annual Jewish holiday.
  - c) Mordecai was greatly respected and worked in the people's interest.
  - d) Mordecai was promoted and became the king's cupbearer.
- 25) What event does the Feast of Purim commemorate?
- a) Purim commemorates Esther's reign as the first Jewish Queen of Persia.
  - b) Purim commemorates the time when Esther saved the Jews from annihilation.
  - c) Purim commemorates the time when Haman died on a gallows.
  - d) Purim commemorates Mordecai's promotion in the king of Persia's palace.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

**Inductive Study:** Use the table on 223 of *Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament* study guide and your assigned reading to complete the table below. Fill in the answer to each question in the space provided below.

Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther	Who, Where, When, What, Why, and How
Who were the people you read about in this section?	
Where were the people in this section located? List all the key locations mentioned in this section.	
When did the events in this section take place? (See the Approx. Timeline on 223.)	
What specific events took place in this section? List a few major events that happened in this section.	
Why are these events in the Bible? In your opinion, why did God want you to know about these events?	
What was God doing in this lesson?	

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

**Vocabulary Words:** Demonstrate your understanding of the vocabulary words in this lesson. For each vocabulary word, write a sentence that uses the word (or a form of the word) correctly.

- |           |             |        |            |
|-----------|-------------|--------|------------|
| Exclusive | Nationality | Verify | Annihilate |
| Gallows   | Loyalty     | Revoke | Intercede  |

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

**Lesson Application:** God is in control and orchestrates events for His glory according to His will and His perfect timing. In this lesson, we see God orchestrating several events for His glory.

- 1.) King Xerxes fell in love with Esther and made her his queen. Esther became the queen of Persia. How did this fit into God’s plan for Esther’s life?

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- 2.) Mordecai overheard assassins plotting to kill the king. How did this fit into God’s plan to use King Xerxes and Mordecai to accomplish His will?

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

3.) Mordecai sent a message to Esther saying, *“And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?”* (Esther 4:14b NIV). What did Mordecai mean by this?

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4.) At Esther’s first banquet, the king asked Esther what she wanted, but she would not say. Esther invited the king to come back the next day for a second banquet and promised to explain everything then. How did this delay fit into God’s “perfect” timing?

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

5.) Haman’s wife and friends suggested he ask the king to hang Mordecai for failing to bow down before him. Haman agreed with their suggestion and had a gallows built for Mordecai’s hanging. How did this fit into God’s plan for Haman?

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6.) King Xerxes gave Esther and Mordecai permission to issue another decree. How did this fit into God’s plan for saving the Jews?

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

**Geography Assignment:** Turn to the maps on pages 223 and 224 of your study guide. Based on this lesson and previous lessons, use the following list of words to fill in the blanks below. As you fill in each blank, find and circle each location on the map in your study guide.

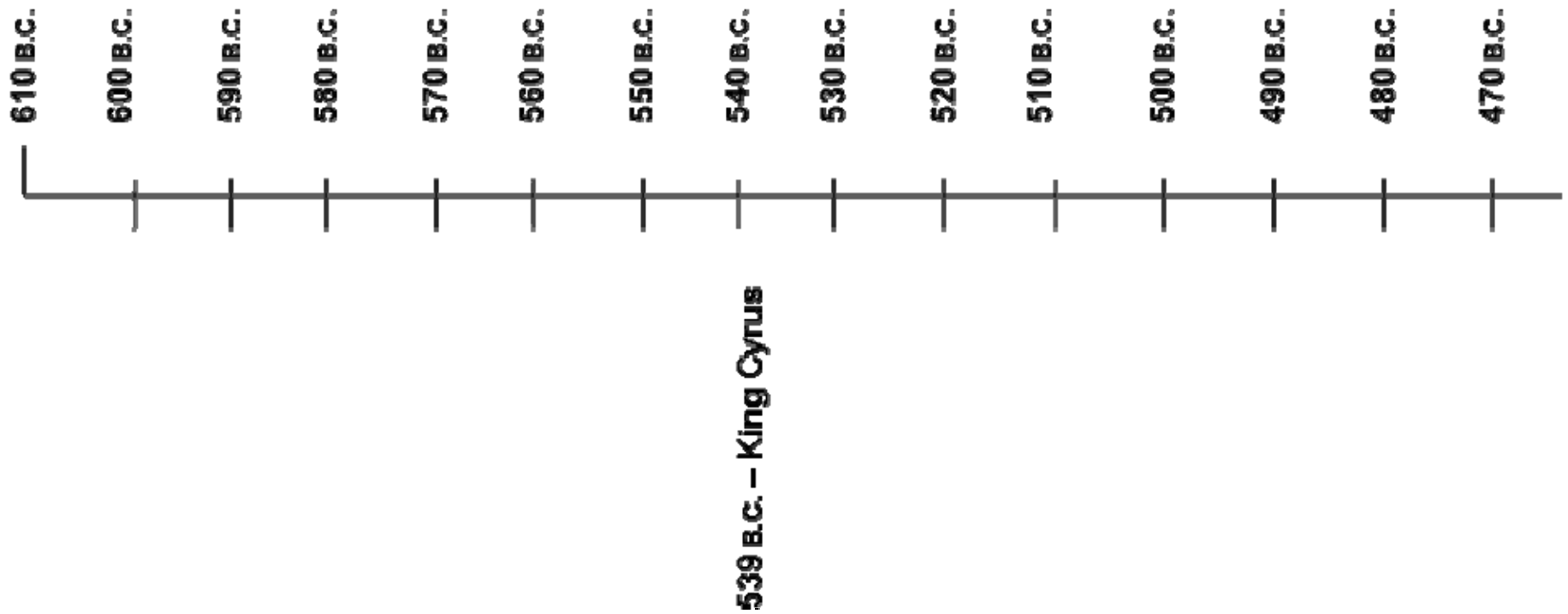
Babylon	Egypt	Euphrates
Jerusalem	Judah	Persian
Susa	Temple	Tigris

- 1) The Babylonians marched through the city of \_\_\_\_\_, destroying everything in their path. They burned down important buildings and demolished the city's wall.
- 2) God spoke to Jeremiah and told him to tell the poor people left behind in Judah to stay and not go to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) After the Medes and Persians conquered the city of \_\_\_\_\_, the Jewish exiles found themselves under Persian rule.
- 4) The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Rivers flowed through Babylonia.
- 5) The two major rivers in Babylonia flowed into the \_\_\_\_\_ Gulf.
- 6) King Cyrus allowed the Jewish exiles to return and rebuild the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7) Zerubbabel was appointed governor of \_\_\_\_\_. He told the local non-Jews that the returned exiles would rebuild without any outside help.
- 8) The story of Esther took place in the city of \_\_\_\_\_ in Persia.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

**Historical Timeline:** Using the tables on pages 234 and 237 of your study guide, mark and label the timeline below to show the beginning of each king’s reign, the beginning of Queen Esther’s reign, and the beginning of each prophet’s ministry. For the queen and kings listed in both tables, include the date their reigns began and their names. For each prophet, include the prophet’s name and the date his ministry began. The first king listed in the table on page 234 has been entered on the timeline as an example.

**Timeline of Prophets & Persia’s Kings and Queen**





**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

**Writing Assignment 1:** The memory verse for this lesson is printed below. Read and meditate on what this verse means to you. Write your thoughts about this verse in the form of a poem or an essay.

*“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” (Ephesians 2:10 NLT)*

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

**Writing Assignment 2:** Write a prayer using the ACTS pattern of prayer you learned about on page 8 of Module 1.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication**

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 5: Restoring & Rebuilding**

**Lesson Objectives:** To understand the following:

- All things are possible with God
- God promised a new covenant

**Memory Verse:** *“This is the new covenant I will make with my people on that day, says the LORD: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”* (Hebrews 10:16 NLT)

**Prayer:** Prayerfully read the opening prayer on 221 in your study guide.

**Vocabulary Words:** The words listed below are sequenced in the order in which they appear in your *Big Picture of the Bible* study guide. Highlight or underline each of these words (or a form of the word) in your study guide. Write a short definition for each word. Use the glossary in the back of your study guide or your dictionary as needed. If the word has several different meanings, choose the one that best defines how the word is used in your study guide.

Devout	Authorize	Provisions	Escort	Dumbfounded
Repentant	Cupbearer	Survey	Sparse	Forerunner

**Reading Assignment:** Read pages 241 through 243 in your study guide.

**Recommended Bible Reading:** Turn to page 243 of your study guide and find the recommended Bible reading. Read these scriptures in your Bible.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 5: Restoring & Rebuilding**

**Review Questions:** Read each question and then choose the “best” answer (a, b, c, or d) based on the assigned reading from your *Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament* study guide.

- 1) Which king authorized Ezra’s trip to Jerusalem?
  - a) King Artaxerxes
  - b) King Xerxes (aka Ahasuerus)
  - c) King Darius
  - d) King Cyrus
  
- 2) What was Ezra’s occupation?
  - a) Ezra was a cupbearer.
  - b) Ezra was a shepherd.
  - c) Ezra was the king’s advisor.
  - d) Ezra was a priest.
  
- 3) Which of the following is not one of the things Ezra did before leaving for Jerusalem?
  - a) Ezra led the people in fasting and prayer.
  - b) Ezra thanked God for His provisions.
  - c) Ezra secured a military escort.
  - d) Ezra received a generous offering from the king.
  
- 4) Why was Ezra dumfounded when he arrived in Jerusalem?
  - a) The people had not finished rebuilding the wall.
  - b) Many of the people were participating in idolatry.
  - c) The people had allowed non-Jews to settle in Jerusalem.
  - d) All the Jews were living outside of Jerusalem.
  
- 5) Ezra wept and called out to God about what he discovered when he arrived. What did the people do as Ezra was calling out to God?
  - a) The people told Ezra they would begin rebuilding the wall.
  - b) The people gathered around Ezra and confessed their sins.
  - c) The people decided to call a meeting with the local non-Jews.
  - d) Some of the people agreed to move inside the city of Jerusalem.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 5: Restoring & Rebuilding**

- 6) Some of the Jews had married wives who practiced pagan religions. What did Ezra tell these Jews to do?
- a) Ezra told them to leave Judah and to take their wives and children with them.
  - b) Ezra told them to instruct their wives to convert to Judaism and to serve God.
  - c) Ezra told them to separate themselves from their pagan wives.
  - d) Ezra told them to teach their children to serve the One True God.
- 7) What was Nehemiah's occupation?
- a) Nehemiah was a cupbearer.
  - b) Nehemiah was a shepherd.
  - c) Nehemiah was the king's advisor.
  - d) Nehemiah was a priest.
- 8) Which of the following is "not" one of the things the king provided Nehemiah?
- a) The king gave Nehemiah an armed escort for protection.
  - b) The king gave Nehemiah letters of authorization for his trip.
  - c) The king gave Nehemiah sacred items taken from the Temple.
  - d) The king gave Nehemiah supplies for his trip.
- 9) What did Nehemiah do when he initially arrived in Jerusalem?
- a) Nehemiah wept about the people's sins and called out to God.
  - b) Nehemiah began working on plans to rebuild the Temple.
  - c) Nehemiah told the people to separate from their pagan wives.
  - d) Nehemiah surveyed the wall and organized a rebuilding effort.
- 10) What did Nehemiah do when the local non-Jews tried to stop the work effort?
- a) Nehemiah armed the Jews.
  - b) Nehemiah called a peace truce.
  - c) Nehemiah gave up and returned to Babylon.
  - d) Nehemiah allowed the local non-Jews to help.

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 5: Restoring & Rebuilding**

- 11) How long did it take the Jews to rebuild the wall with Nehemiah leading the effort?
- a) 52 hours
  - b) 52 days
  - c) 52 weeks
  - d) 52 years
- 12) Who read the Book of the Law to the people?
- a) Ezra
  - b) Nehemiah
  - c) King Artaxerxes
  - d) Malachi
- 13) After reading the Book of the Law, the priests organized a Feasts of Tabernacles celebration. What was the purpose of this holiday?
- a) It celebrated the exodus from slavery.
  - b) It commemorated God's protection and provisions while the Israelites were in the desert.
  - c) It commemorated the Jews deliverance during the time of Esther's reign as Queen of Persia.
  - d) It celebrated the end of the barley harvest and the beginning of the wheat harvest.
- 14) Nehemiah was in Jerusalem for twelve years and then returned to Babylon for a while. What did Nehemiah discover when he returned to Jerusalem?
- a) Nehemiah discovered that the people were not living in obedience to God.
  - b) Nehemiah discovered that the local non-Jews had destroyed the wall.
  - c) Nehemiah discovered that Ezra had left Jerusalem.
  - d) Nehemiah discovered that the people were still living in obedience to God.
- 15) Which of the following is "not" true about the prophet Malachi?
- a) Malachi prophesied that a messenger would prepare the way for the Messiah.
  - b) Malachi chastised the priests for offering defective animals as sacrifices to God.
  - c) Malachi reminded the people of God's great love.
  - d) Malachi organized a ceremony in Jerusalem to dedicate the wall.

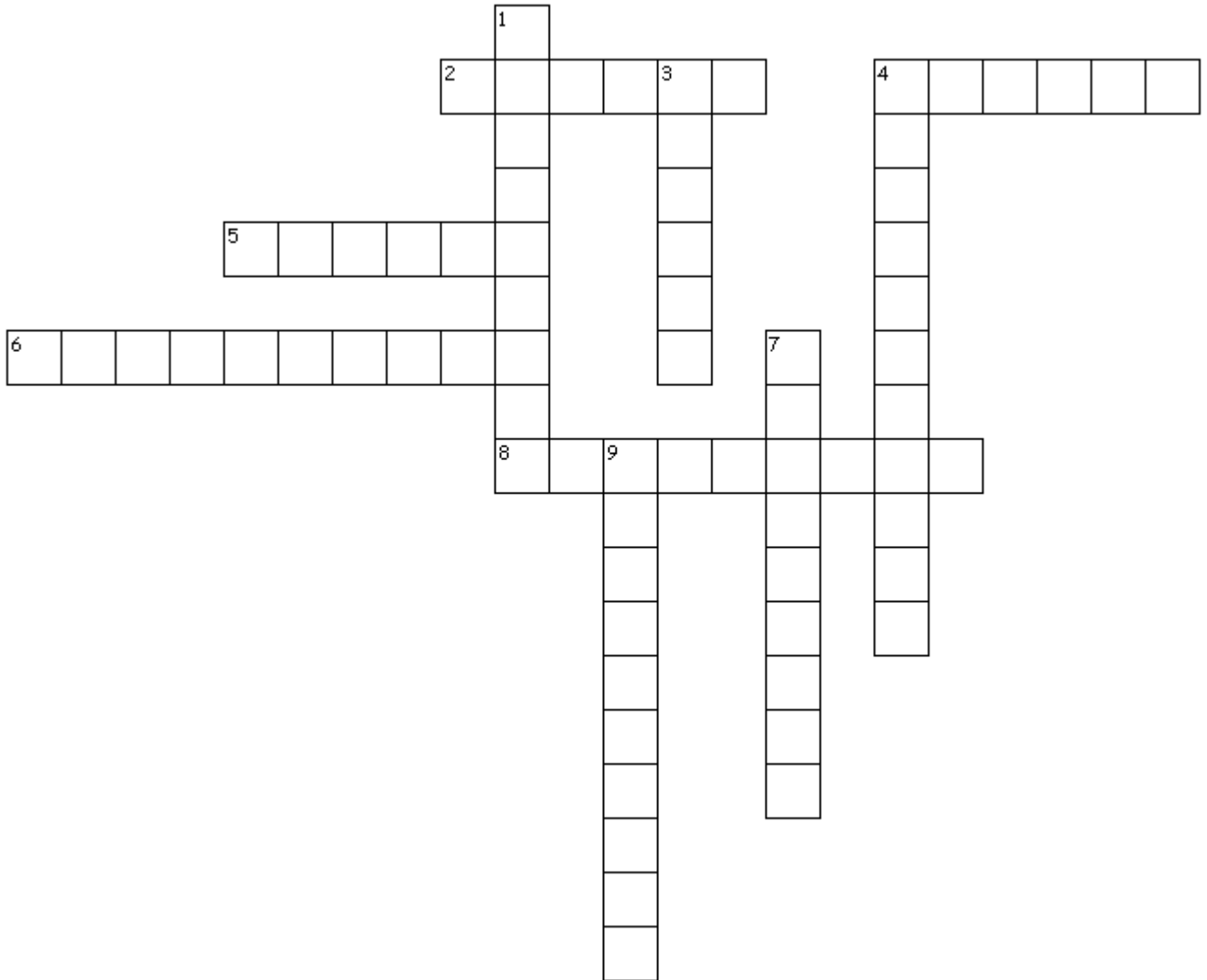
**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 5: Restoring & Rebuilding**

**Inductive Study:** Use the table on 223 of *Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament* study guide and your assigned reading to complete the table below. Fill in the answer to each question in the space provided below.

Section 5: Restoring & Rebuilding	Who, Where, When, What, Why, and How
Who were the people you read about in this section?	
Where were the people in this section located?	
When did the events in this section take place? (See the Approx. Timeline on 223.)	
What specific events took place in this section? List a few major events that happened in this section.	
Why are these events in the Bible? In your opinion, why did God want you to know about these events?	
What was God doing in this lesson?	

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 5: Restoring & Rebuilding**

**Crossword Puzzle:** Use the vocabulary words for this lesson to fill in the answers to the crossword puzzle.





**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 5: Restoring & Rebuilding**

**Across**

2. To examine or inspect carefully to assess the condition of
4. Deeply religious, earnest and sincere before God
5. Not close together, less populated
6. A person who goes before or announces the coming of another
8. Sorry for sins or misdeeds

**Down**

1. A person who fills and serves cups of wine in a king's palace
3. The act of accompanying someone in order to protect them
4. Speechless with astonishment and surprise
7. To give or delegate power
9. A supply of something as food, clothing, or arms

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 5: Restoring & Rebuilding**

**Lesson Application 1:** Under the old covenant (in the Old Testament), the Israelites were in right standing with God if they obeyed the Old Testament laws. In your opinion, why did the Israelites have such a difficult time obeying God’s laws?

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**Lesson Application 2:** When the Israelites disobeyed God’s law, they had to sacrifice animals to atone for sin. According to Scripture, *“Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins”* (Hebrews 10:11). Based on this scripture, what was the problem with the old covenant?

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 5: Restoring & Rebuilding**

**Lesson Application 3:** Apostle Paul wrote, *“The people of Israel, who tried so hard to get right with God by keeping the law, never succeeded. Why not? Because they were trying to get right with God by keeping the law instead of by trusting in him”* (Romans 9:31-32). According to this New Testament scripture, what was the Israelite’s problem?

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**Lesson Application 4:** Apostle Paul wrote, *“Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, ‘You must not covet’”* (Romans 7:7 NLT). According to these New Testament scriptures, what is the purpose of God’s laws?

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**Lesson Application 5:** The new covenant opens the door for all people to be in right standing with God. Paul wrote, *“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved”* (Romans 10:9-10). According to these New Testament scriptures, how are we made right with God?

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**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Section 5: Restoring & Rebuilding**

**Writing Assignment 3:** Write a prayer using the ACTS pattern of prayer you learned about on page 8 of Module 1. Ask God to help you accomplish your one and five year goals.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication**

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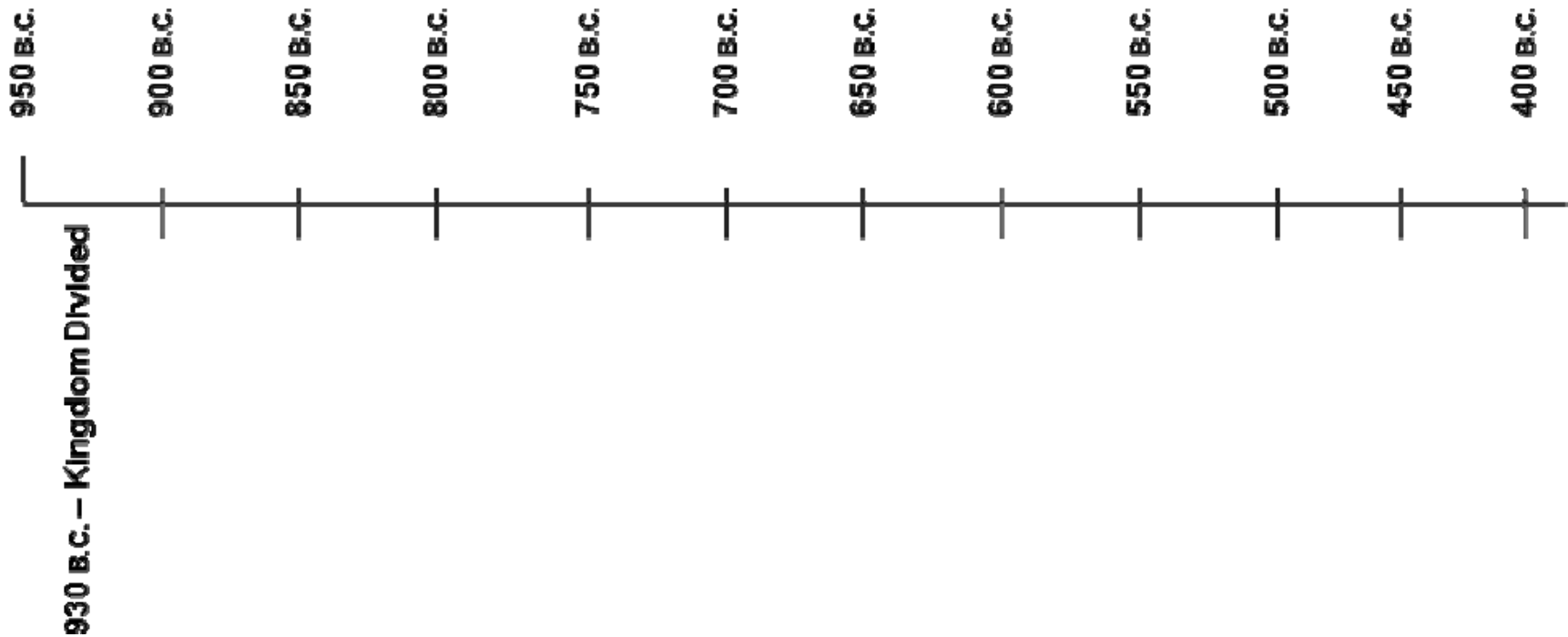
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**Big Picture of the Bible –Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Restoring & Rebuilding**

**Historical Timeline:** Turn to the table on page 272 in your study guide entitled, “Old Testament Summary of Major Events.” Mark and label the major events on the timeline below, starting with “The Kingdom is Divided” through “Jerusalem’s Wall Rebuilt.” Important Reminder: Dates labeled “B.C.” denote the number of years before Christ’s birth. As a result, dates on an Old Testament timeline get smaller as time passes.

**Old Testament Timeline**



**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Chapter Review**

Select one or more of the research assignments listed below. Research and gather information from the internet, the library, and/or your Bible to complete the assignment (s) you have selected.

1) History: The Rise and Fall of the Babylonian Empire (2000 B.C. – 539 B.C.)

The Babylonians rebelled against Assyria and conquered its capital city, Nineveh, in about 612 B.C. The Assyrian Empire fell in 605 B.C. After the fall of the Assyrian Empire, the Babylonian Empire became the most powerful state in the ancient world. King Nebuchadnezzar II and the Babylonians conquered and destroyed Jerusalem in about 586 B.C. Research and gather information about the Babylonian Empire during the period of 2000 B.C. through 539 B.C. Prepare a research paper on your findings.

2) Scripture Reenactment: Recreate scenes from the story of Queen Esther.

Esther was Queen of Persia from about 479 B.C. to 465 B.C. God used Queen Esther as a savior. She interceded for her people and was willing to die to save the Jews. The events listed below occurred in the story of Queen Esther. Write a play or a poem reenacting these biblical scenes. Read the scriptures listed in parenthesis next to the events for a more complete picture of the biblical stories.

- a) Esther's 1<sup>st</sup> Banquet / Haman Plans to Kill Mordecai (Esther 5:1 – 6:14)
- b) The King Honors Mordecai / Esther's 2<sup>nd</sup> Banquet (Esther 6:1 – 7:10)

3) History: The Rise and Fall of the Medo-Persian Empire (728 B.C. – 330 B.C.)

The Medes and Persians joined forces and conquered the ancient city of Babylon. The Babylonian Empire fell in 539 B.C. After the fall, Cyrus became the king. Cyrus was a benevolent conqueror issuing a decree to allow the Jews to return to their homeland. Cyrus also established the Cyrus Cylinder, the first charter of human rights. Research and gather information about the Medes and Persians during the period of 728 B.C. through 330 B.C. Prepare a research paper on your findings.



**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament**  
**Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return**  
**Chapter Review**

Demonstrate your understanding of the material presented in Chapter 8 of your *Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament* study guide.

- 1) Prayerfully read the meditation scriptures and prayer on page 244 of your study guide.
- 2) Answer the questions listed on pages 245 through 252 in your study guide in the spaces provided in the book.
- 3) Prayerfully read the meditation scriptures and closing prayer on page 253 in your study guide.

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*Congratulations!!*

*You have finished Module 8 of the Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament Lesson Plans.*